

Celebrating compassionate care: Home health and hospice month

By **Kandra Diefenderfer**

November is home health and hospice month, a time to recognize the incredible work of healthcare professionals who provide compassionate care to patients in their homes. Whether through home health services, which help individuals recover from illness or manage chronic conditions, or hospice care, which provides comfort and dignity to those at the end of life, we honor the dedication of the RiverStone Health home health and hospice team and the impact of these services.

Home health and hospice care allow patients to remain in the comfort of their own homes surrounded by loved ones while receiving the medical attention they need and deserve.

RiverStone Health home health services include skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, home health aide services and social work. These services are designed to help patients recover from illness or surgery and maintain independence in their daily lives.

RiverStone Health hospice services focus on providing comfort and support to patients at the end of life. Hospice is not about giving up hope; it's about prioritizing comfort and quality of life when curative treatment is no longer an option. Our team includes skilled nurses, physicians, social workers, chaplains, home health aides and volunteers. They work closely with patients and families to ensure that they feel supported every step of the way.

Did You Know?

- Each year, over 12 million people in the U.S. receive home healthcare services.
- Nationally, hospice care provides end-of-life care to more than 1.5 million patients and their families annually.
- Research shows that home health and hospice services can significantly reduce the cost of care by preventing hospital readmissions and reducing emergency room visits. For hospice care, studies suggest that patients enrolled earlier in hospice programs experience improved quality of life and reduced costs.

These services are valuable for seniors, individuals recovering from surgery, those managing chronic illnesses and terminally ill patients seeking comfort and dignity at the end of life.

RiverStone Health Home Health and Hospice serves patients in Yellowstone County as well as outlying counties. We have been in the community for over 40 years, providing quality care to those who need it most. If you know someone who could benefit from home health or hospice services, please encourage them to contact us.

This month offers us a chance to extend a heartfelt thank you to every member of the team, including the amazing volunteers. The staff and volunteers are the heart of our program, and their commitment to

excellence makes all the difference for our patients and their families. I am honored to work alongside such compassionate and talented professionals.

Kandra Diefenderfer is the senior director of RiverStone Health Home Health & Hospice. She can be reached at 406-651-6500.